

his college studies. He has been accepted to Missouri Western State University and plans to major in History and participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jared Goede, an outstanding student from Kansas City, Missouri. His commitment to the community and desire to serve his country should be commended. I would like to express my gratitude to him for his achievements and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
DEBORAH J. ALMY ON HER AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Deborah J. Almy of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Deborah's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Deborah brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Deborah has attained a grade point average which places her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Deborah has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Deborah has been a member of the Honor Roll, the High School Choir and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Deborah has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete by earning letters in both varsity soccer and basketball. She has also remained involved in her community by serving as a teacher's aide and as a volunteer for her Church's nursery. I have no doubt that Deborah will employ the lessons of her student leadership as she excels among the leaders at West Point.

Deborah's dedication and service to the community and her peers has proven her ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Deborah will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deborah J. Almy on her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Deborah will do very well during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to

join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the nation.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
FOR EVERY PORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act, and I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their work on this bill, as well as my colleagues from California Mr. LUNGREN, Ms. HARMAN, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ.

As a member of the Port Security Caucus and as an original co-sponsor of this legislation I have been consistently fighting for a massive increase in funding and focus to secure our Nation's ports.

The fact of the matter is that over the last 4 years we have done far too little to secure our Nation's ports.

Since 2002 we have barely spent \$700 million on port security grants throughout the country even though our ports have already identified and applied for over \$3.8 billion worth of security improvements and even though the Coast Guard estimates that at least \$5.4 billion is needed through 2010.

Instead of spending \$320 billion to mislead us into a war in Iraq, the administration could have hired nearly 5 million inspectors to ensure that all cargo that enters our country is inspected.

This year this administration has even proposed to roll all critical infrastructure security grants into one pool, forcing ports, rail and other critical infrastructure to compete for scarce security dollars. That just doesn't make any sense.

The SAFE Port Act rejects the administration's wrongheaded proposal and increases the authorization for port security funding to \$400 million per year.

Although this bill does make a number of very good steps in the right direction to secure our ports, I am disappointed that it does not go far enough to screen foreign cargo before it enters U.S. ports.

If we had adopted the Markey-Nadler amendment requiring 100 percent container scanning prior to shipment from foreign ports, we could have ensured that any potential threat would be identified and dealt with before it entered the United States.

If even one incident occurs that compromises a single container of a known shipper, our current screening system will fall apart. Mr. Chairman, I believe that 100 percent screening is our only option because in this day and age we cannot afford the risk of even one incident.

But we haven't even been given the option to vote on the Markey-Nadler amendment.

I'm also disappointed that the bill does not contain enough funding for the Coast Guard's deepwater program, or the radiation portal

monitoring program that was first successfully launched at the Port of Oakland in my district last year.

We can and we must increase funding for both these programs and provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to port security that includes 100 percent screening. Until we do so, our job remains unfinished.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and I rise to proudly recognize and honor over 78,000 Asian Pacific Americans who live in my 7th Congressional District in Washington State. They are the largest minority group in my district, embracing over 13 percent of the population. They are Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Pacific Islanders, as well as other Asian American cultures. Their contributions have helped to make Seattle a richly textured weave of cultures and people. We all benefit as a result.

Beginning in the late 19th century, Asian Americans immigrated to the United States to work hard and make a better life for themselves and their families. Many faced prejudice, racial injustice, and discrimination, but these new immigrants believed in America, and they made our Nation stronger by fighting for American values like equality. As our Nation again debates the importance and role of immigration in the early 21st Century, we should consider the contributions that Asian-Americans have made, and continue to make, to our Nation, becoming leaders in public and social service, business and industry.

In Seattle, I am proud to have introduced the legislation that renamed a United States Courthouse as the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse in honor of a Japanese American who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage under fire in World War II. Mr. Nakamura made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country he loved, an honor made more poignant by the fact that William and his family were forcibly relocated to a federal internment camp at the beginning of the war.

Today, we proudly celebrate Asian Pacific American culture and heritage, from the Vietnamese Tet in Seattle Lunar New Year celebration to other local cultural festivals. We also honor Asian Pacific Americans by preserving the ethnic heritage of our citizens. Places like the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project keep us in touch with the roots of our neighbors.

Our pride in and recognition of many Asian American role models has earned Washington State a global awareness. Just last month Chinese President Hu Jintao chose Seattle for his inaugural visit to the United States as head of state, touring a Boeing plant and Microsoft headquarters and noting the "good cooperative relations" between China and Washington

State. One out of every four jobs in Washington State is directly tied to international trade, and we have a strong and growing trading relationship with the Asia Pacific region. This relationship has been established, expanded, and nurtured largely through cultural awareness first developed in the region by Asian-American immigrants. We all benefit from the contributions Asian Pacific Americans make to our community and country.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a celebration of the American spirit. We are a nation of immigrants, and by honoring Asian Pacific Americans, we honor all cultures.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIN VENZIAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Kristin Venzian of Parkville, Missouri. Kristin will be honored with the Billy Mitchell Award and Second Lieutenant Bars as a member of the Platte Valley Civil Air Patrol. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, she has been moving swiftly through the ranks and is a member of the first string color guard, participating in various local events as a member of the team that won the Missouri State Color Guard Championship this year.

Kristin is a very active member of her school and the community. She received the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2005 and founded Kids Celebrate Soldiers, a foundation that sends thank you cards from children around the United States to American soldiers overseas. In school she is a member of the National Honor Society, the South Boulevard Singers, French Club, Teenage Republican Club, and a Captain on the Girls Cross Country squad.

After graduating from Park Hill South High School, Kristin hopes to enter the Air Force Academy and pursue a degree in Aeronautical Engineering with a specialty in engines. For many years she remains focused on becoming a pilot and serving in the Air Force throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kristin Venzian, an outstanding student from Parkville, Missouri. Her commitment to the community and desire to serve her country should be commended. I would like to express my gratitude to her for her achievements and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CINCO DE MAYO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is not only a celebration of the victory of a small Mexican militia over the Napoleonic French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, but also the commemoration of the friendship and goodwill that exists between the United States and Mexico to this day.

Following the Mexican War of Independence, Mexico found itself heavily indebted to

Spain, France, and England. England and Spain quickly settled their debts, but Napoleon saw this as an opportunity to expand his empire and reclaim a portion of the New World.

France invaded Mexico in Veracruz, but was stopped from gaining passage to the Nations seed of government in Mexico City by General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza and his small militia. Napoleon, however, would not be deterred. He sent 30,000 more troops and began a three month siege of Puebla, who finally surrendered and eventually took Mexico City. Napoleon appointed his cousin Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria as Emperor of Mexico. He was in power from 1864 until 1867 when the United States was able to provide assistance to Mexico after the conclusion of the Civil War and helped Mexico expel the French. Shortly after the French expulsion Maximilian was executed in Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862 where General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza and his small militia valiantly prevented the invasion of Mexico. This brave group of 4,500 men was able to prevent 6,500 French soldiers from marching on to Mexico City.

Mexico, and more recently, the United States both celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It represents a victory for the Mexican people and the beginning of a wonderful diplomatic relationship between the United States and Mexico that is not simply intertwined geographically but also culturally.

As a Texan I have an added respect for General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza. He was born near the town of Goliad, Texas on March 24, 1829. A ten foot stature honoring General Zaragoza was dedicated in Goliad, Texas as a gift from the Governor of Puebla, Mexico.

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL RICHARD PRICE WALLER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On April 7, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Corporal Richard Price Waller (United States Marines, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division) was killed in the line of duty while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Corporal Waller, who was known as "Ricky" by family and friends, had dreamed since he was a young boy of following in the footsteps of a number of relatives who have served in the U.S. military over the last nine decades. Soon after graduating from Fort Worth's Western Hills High School in 2002, Ricky realized his ambition and joined the Marines. After boot camp, Ricky was assigned to Company C where he excelled and became a platoon leader who earned the nickname "The Motivator."

Ricky's dedication to protecting freedom and winning peace around the world was demonstrated in his unconditional devotion to duty. He was serving on his third tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. Despite the dangers and sacrifice that Ricky faced in Iraq, he had informed his family that he planned to re-enlist with the Marines in the fall.

Ricky's family is also to be commended for urging other young men and women to take heart in the life of Corporal Waller who lived "for God, family and country, with love for all and with no regrets."

The American people know the sacrifices Ricky, like many other soldiers, made to his country and his memory will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Corporal Waller's service to the State of Texas and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR DAVID L. EVERSON, SR.

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to my constituent, Pastor David L. Everson, Sr. A pastor for over 26 years, David Everson has spent the last seven years serving at the First Union Baptist Church in Galveston, Texas. During his time in Galveston, Pastor Everson has worked tirelessly to help his congregation, and all residents of Galveston. Pastor Everson's efforts have improved the lives of many Texans.

For example, Pastor Everson has been given an identification badge by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), one of Texas's most respected hospitals, so he may visit with, extend compassion to, and pray with and for people receiving treatment at UTMB and their families. Pastor Everson has also been given a badge by the Galveston Police Department in recognition of his work against drug abuse.

Education is an area of particular concern to Pastor Everson. In order to ensure his neighbors have access to adult education services, Pastor Everson initiated the First Union Baptist Church Community Center. Pastor Everson also regularly meets with local school board members and networks with other ministers to ensure all the children in Galveston receive a quality education. Pastor Everson is always willing to mentor any young person in his congregation, and he regularly visits local schools to provide support for the young people of Galveston.

Pastor Everson is always available to counsel and assist any members of his congregation with any problems they are having, or with any projects on which they are working. Even with his busy schedule, Pastor Everson still makes time to brighten the lives of his congregation. For example, in order to ensure senior citizens who are members of his congregation continue to enjoy a fulfilling social life, Pastor Everson takes them out for lunch and dinner, paying for their meals out of his own pocket.

In recognition of Pastor Everson's numerous good works, some members of his congregation have launched an effort to have Sunday, May 21, 2006 deemed Pastor David L. Everson, Sr. day. I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pastor Everson and thank him for all his good works.